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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/507,175

09/10/2004

Hiroji Aga

121026

8967

25944

7590

09/29/2006

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EXAMINER

RODGERS, COLLEEN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2813

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/507,175	Applicant(s) AGA ET AL.	
	Examiner Colleen E. Rodgers	Art Unit 2813	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action responds to the Amendment dated 24 July 2006. By this amendment, Applicants' foreign priority has been perfected, which predates the previously cited prior art. Claims 8-40 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 8-11, 16-19, 24-27, 32-35 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Aga et al** (USPN 6,372,609).

Regarding claim 8, **Aga et al** disclose a method of producing an SOI wafer in which an SOI layer is formed on a buried oxide film by forming an oxide film 3 on a surface of at least one of a bond wafer 2 and a base wafer 1, bonding the bond wafer 2 to the base wafer 2 through the formed oxide film 3 [see Fig. 1, step D], and making the bond wafer 2 into a thin film to form an SOI layer [see Fig. 1, step E], wherein the total thickness of the oxide film formed on the surface of at least one of a bond wafer and a base wafer is thicker than the thickness of the buried oxide film formed thereby, and thereafter, an obtained bonded wafer is subjected to heat treatment [see Fig. 1, step F] to reduce a thickness of the buried oxide film.

Regarding claim 9, **Aga et al** disclose the method of claim 8 as described above, furthermore wherein the SOI layer formed is 400 nm in thickness [see col. 9, lines 54-55].

Regarding claims 10 and 11, **Aga et al** disclose the methods of claim 8 and 9, respectively, furthermore wherein a heat treatment is performed in an inert gas atmosphere, at a temperature of 1000-1300°C [see col. 6, lines 24-34].

Regarding claims 16-19, **Aga et al** disclose the method of claims 8-11, respectively, as described above, furthermore wherein before the bond wafer is bonded to the base wafer, hydrogen or rare gas ions are implanted into the surface layer portion of the bond wafer to form an ion-implanted layer, and after the ion-implanted surface of the bond wafer is bonded to the base wafer, the bond wafer is delaminated at the formed ion-implanted layer to make the bond wafer into a thin film [see col. 6, lines 1-13; see also Fig. 1, steps C and E].

Regarding claims 24-27 and 32-35, **Aga et al** disclose the method of claims 8-11 and 16-19, respectively, as described above, furthermore wherein after the heat treatment is performed, sacrificial oxidation is further performed [see col. 6, lines 47-49].

Regarding claim 40, **Aga et al** disclose an SOI wafer produced according to the method of claim 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 12-15, 20-23, 28-31 and 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Aga et al** (USPN 6,372,609).

Regarding claims 12-15, **Aga et al** disclose the method of claim 8-11, respectively, as described above. **Aga et al** do not specifically disclose that the thickness of the buried oxide is reduced to 100 nm or less by the heat treatment. However, these claims are *prima facie* obvious without a showing that the claimed ranges achieve unexpected results relative to the prior art range. *In re Woodruff*, 16 USPQ2d 1935, 1937 (Fed. Cir. 1990). See also *In re Huang*, 40 USPQ2d 1685, 1688 (Fed. Cir. 1996) (claimed ranges of a result effective variable, which do not overlap the prior art ranges, are unpatentable unless they produce a new and unexpected result which is different in kind and not merely in degree from the results of the prior art). See also *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA) (discovery of optimum value of result effective variable in known process is ordinarily within skill of art) and *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955) (selection of optimum ranges within prior art in general conditions is obvious). In this case, there exists no evidence of record that the claimed heat treatment provides unexpected results in the thickness of the buried oxide layer produced. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to optimize the thickness of the buried oxide layer to provide for device performance.

Regarding claims 20-23, **Aga et al** disclose the method of claims 12-15, respectively, as described above, furthermore wherein before the bond wafer is bonded to the base wafer, hydrogen or rare gas ions are implanted into the surface layer portion of the bond wafer to form an ion-implanted layer, and after the ion-implanted surface of the bond wafer is bonded to the base wafer, the bond wafer is delaminated at the formed ion-implanted layer to make the bond wafer into a thin film [see col. 6, lines 1-13; see also Fig. 1, steps C and E].

Regarding claims 28-31 and 36-39, **Aga et al** disclose the method of claims 12-15 and 20-23, respectively, as described above, furthermore wherein after the heat treatment is performed, sacrificial oxidation is further performed [see col. 6, lines 47-49].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Colleen E. Rodgers whose telephone number is (571) 272-8603. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Whitehead can be reached on (571) 272-1702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CER


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